



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 16, 2003

- ***In the West***, late-season storminess is returning to ***California***, slowing fieldwork but boosting valley moisture reserves and high-elevation snow packs. Elsewhere, isolated showers are confined to the ***Northwest***, while some gusty winds linger across the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, widespread showers are aiding pastures and winter wheat from ***Kansas northward***. In addition, thunderstorms swept across portions of the ***southern Plains*** late yesterday, providing localized relief from recent dryness but causing localized wind and hail damage. However, little rain fell on the ***southern High Plains***, including ***western Texas***, where windy weather is depleting topsoil and causing blowing dust.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, widespread rain showers across the ***western half of the region*** are easing long-term precipitation deficits and boosting soil moisture reserves in preparation for spring planting. Sharply cooler air is overspreading the ***northern Corn Belt***, but warm weather lingers across the ***Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather continues to promote an acceleration of spring planting in previously soaked areas from the ***central Gulf Coast region to the southern Atlantic Coast***.

Outlook: A slow-moving storm system centered over the ***central U.S.*** will provide locally heavy rain to the ***central Plains and Corn Belt*** and possible snow across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. Meanwhile, cool, damp weather will return to the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, while warm, mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***Southeast***. Elsewhere, rain and snow showers will accompany below-normal temperatures from the ***Pacific Coast to the Rockies***, while mostly dry weather will continue from the ***southern Plains to the Gulf Coast States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 21-25 calls for above-normal precipitation from the ***Corn Belt into the Mid-Atlantic States***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected from the ***southern High Plains southward into the Rio Grande Valley***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***northern Plains, Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Southwest***.

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